

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 07724 041839Z

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0862

CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 7724

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC (SHELLEY, LOUISE), UR

SUBJECT: IREX EXCHANGE LOUISE SHELLEY

REFS: (A) STATE 125287 (B) MOSCOW 7471

1. UNLESS DEPARTMENT OBJECTS, EMBASSY PLANS TO
SEND PROTEST NOTE TO MFA ON CASE OF LOUISE SHELLEY
(REFTELS). P&C COUSNELOR WILL ALSO FOLLOW UP
WITH LETTER OF SIMILAR CONTENT TO DEPUTY MINISTER
OF HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED SECONDARY EDUCATION.

TEXT OF PROPOSED NOTE FOLLOWS:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
WISHES TO DIRECT THE ATTENTION OF THE MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE UNION OF SOVIET
SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE CASE OF MISS LOUISE
SHELLEY, A JUNIOR SCHOLAR UNDER THE IREX
ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WHO WAS ASKED TO
LEAVE THE USSR AT THE BEHEST OF AN OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY
OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

"THE EMBASSY STRONGLY PROTESTS THE ACTION TAKEN
BY THE MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS UNWARRANTED,
UNSUBSTANTIATED, AND HARMFUL TO THE PRINCIPLES
AND SPIRIT OF THE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 07724 041839Z

UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS.

"MISS SHELLEY HAS CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT THERE IS ANY BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR SUCH CHARGES. DESPITE REQUESTS BY THE EMBASSY, THE MINISTRY HAS NOT SUBSTANTIATED ITS CHARGES BY PROVIDING EITHER NAMES OR INCIDENTS WHICH WOULD IMPLICATE MISS SHELLEY IN ACTIVITIES WHICH ARE CONTRARY EITHER TO SOVIET LAW OR TO THE SPIRIT OF THE EXCHANGE AGREEMENT. IN THE ABSENCE OF SUCH SUBSTANTIATING DETAILS, THE EMBASSY CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT THE MINISTRY'S ACTION AGAINST MISS SHELLEY IS UNWARRANTED AND EXCESSIVE.

"THE EMBASSY POINTS OUT THAT SUCH ACTS AS TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY STRIKE AT ONE OF THE MAJOR FOUNDATIONS OF THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM, NAMELY THE FREE MOVEMENT AND CONTACT BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE EXCHANGES AND CITIZENS OF THE RECEIVING SOCIETY. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT UNLESS THE PRINCIPLE IS SUPPORTED BY BOTH PARTICIPATING UNDERSTANDING AND INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT FROM THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES WILL BE DANGEROUSLY UNDERMINED.

"THE EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT IN THIS REGARD THAT SOVIET STUDENTS ON SIMILAR ACADEMIC EXCHANGES IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NOT ENJOINED FROM ASSOCIATING WITH ANY INDIVIDUAL AMERICAN OR GROUP OF AMERICANS, WHATEVER THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS OR JURIDICAL STATUS, AND FREELY ENGAGE IN THESE CONTACTS. IT THEREFORE REGARDS THIS ACTION AGAINST ONE OF THE AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM AS A DEPARTURE FROM THE PRINCIPLES AND SPIRIT THAT HAVE CHARACTERIZED OUR EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES IN THE PAST AND WHICH THE EMBASSY BELIEVES MUST CHARACTERIZE THEM IN THE FUTURE."

2 PLEASE ADVISE.
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